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1 July 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
 Director, Office of East Asian Analysis, DDI

VIA: Associate Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:   
 Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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SUBJECT: Survey of Philippine Radios

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SUMMARY: FBIS in late March 1982 surveyed Philippine regional stations that were monitorable in Manila and Cebu to determine if the broadcasts contained unique information, particularly on internal political and security developments. The purpose was to determine whether FBIS should establish a remotely controlled monitoring site in the Philippines. The conclusion is that no such monitoring site would be justified. The following describes the result of the survey:

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1. In Manila, 25 different mediumwave stations were recorded, 15 from the Manila metropolitan area and 10 from outlying cities or unidentifiable. In Cebu, 13 mediumwave stations were recorded, 8 from Cebu Province, 4 from northern Mindanao (Butuan and Cagayan de Oro), and 1 from Negros Oriental Province.

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2. None of the stations surveyed broadcast useful information. There was no unique reporting, for example, on activities of the New People's Army. The stations monitored in Manila broadcast news similar to that which appears on Quezon City television, which is monitored by our Okinawa Bureau . These stations carried no news or commentaries reflecting opposition to the Marcos government or any identifiable political slant.

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3. On the other hand, some criticism of the central government, albeit generally moderate in tone, was monitored in Cebu. Primarily, Cebu DYLA, the southern Philippine station most frequently monitored, reported criticism of the performance of central government institutions and called for less political interference in local affairs. It avoided direct criticism of Marcos, his family, and other high-level central government officials. This station as well as other regional stations

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appeared to devote considerable air time to Visayan affairs. Only one station--Cagayan de Oro DXCC--was heard to broadcast anti-Marcos remarks; a 28 March Cebuano-language commentary by opposition Assemblyman Reuben Canoy urged splintered opposition groups to unite for the eventual overthrow of the Marcos regime. The limited sampling of seven DXCC broadcasts contained no additional anti-regime material. Based on the recent sampling, we have concluded that there is not sufficient justification to undertake the costly and logistically difficult task of establishing a remote monitoring setup in the southern Philippines. ☐

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4. Our current radio coverage of the Philippines consists of Manila Radio's English-language broadcasts, Baguio Provincial radio broadcasts in English, and Manila Far East Broadcasting Service, as well as Quezon City television via satellite. In addition our bureau in Hong Kong is attempting to subscribe to several Philippine newspapers. We will, of course, continue to review periodically our capabilities on the Philippines. ☐

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